

Cambridge LGBTQ+ Commission

MINUTES: May 26, 2022 6:00pm

Tonight's Chair: Bill Barnert

Tonight's Minutes: Greg MacDonough

Attendance (X = Here, LOA = Leave of Absence, Blank = Absent):

COMMISSIONERS	Pre-sent?	COMMISSIONERS	Pre-sent?	STAFF	Pre-sent?
Badriyyah Alsbah	X	Lauryn McNair	X	Jennifer Mathews	X
Bill Barnert	X	Lesley Phillips	X	Amelia Joselow	
Bob Bordone	X	Linden Huhmann	X		
Cameron Van Fossen		Noelani Gabriel Holt		GUESTS	
Frank Arce		Noelani Kamelamela			
Gregory MacDonough	X	Olivia Sevey			
Kat Long	X	Soltan Bryce			
Kate Grams	X	Warner Santiago			

Agenda

Co-Chairs: Noelani Gabriel Holt and Bill Barnert

Tonight's meeting chaired by: Bill Barnert

1. **Welcome**
2. **Assign Minute Taker**

Gregory MacDonough is the minute taker.

3. **Approve / Modify Agenda**

There are no additions to tonight's agenda.

4. **Approve Previous Minutes**

April minutes are approved unanimously.

5. Introductions

6. Project Updates (current actions, and plans) including reports from Jennifer & Amelia

Community Center Project: The part-time staff position focused on programming at the senior and youth center will be approved and posted next week on Cambridge city website.

Senior House and Research Project Part 2: The second part of the senior house report is approved for publication. The report will be posted on the commission website when available.

All-Gender Bathrooms: The commission is approved to submit the advocacy letter requesting that multi-stall bathrooms become all gender. Jennifer Mathews would like to develop the letter's language with the All-Gender Bathroom subcommittee group. The city still needs to update the companion wayfinding signs in city buildings for all-gender bathrooms.

7. Working Group Reports

- All-Gender Bathrooms

The commission discussed whether to send the advocacy letter from the constant contact account or through Gmail.

- Budget

The Commission's budget was approved last week, including a \$2,500 increase from last fiscal year.

- Communications

- Tabling events: MayFair, Memorial Day/Veterans event, future

MayFair: The commissioners gave out all the swag at the table and filled out four pages of names and emails on the LGBTQ+ signup sheet. Feedback from the community is that younger people want the commission to increase its social media.

Memorial Day/Veterans Event: Jennifer Mathews and Kat Long are tabling a Memorial Event Monday, May 30th, at the Cambridge Commons from 11:30 – 2:30 pm.

- Events

- **STARLIGHT SQUARE** - Sept. 10th evening

The Starlight Planning Group has met once. Bill Barnert is looking for more commissioners to join the planning team.

- Tucker Shaw, ***When You Call My Name*** at Porter Square Books (Bill & Kat)

Bill Barnert interviewed Tucker Saw about the book. There is another event at the end of June at Porter Square Books.

- Kate Grams will be part of the panel at Porter Square Books 2: June Pride Month Event: Wednesday, June 29 at 7pm. Tentative topic(s): LGBTQ+ sci-fi/fantasy, mystery, romance.

- Queer Cabarets from Stones to Rainbows

Peter DiMuro is putting together a performance piece, which features pre-recorded videos at the event. Anyone looking to contribute to this project should contact Bill.

- Handbook

Bill is updating the section in the handbook on taking meeting minutes.

- Housing

The Housing subcommittee met to discuss questions about legalizing intentional community households in Cambridge. The subcommittee decided on possible solutions, including asking the city to remove the family-related criteria in the zoning code. The subcommittee is deciding on a recurring meeting time, possibly at 6 pm, and finding ways to get more input from the community.

- Public Health & Safety

Commissioner Elow is attending the LGBTQ+ commission meeting next month. We should contact Soltan with questions to give to Commissioner Elow before the meeting.

- Pride Brunch

- Bayard Rustin Award Nomination Discussion
- Rose Lipkin Awardee

Frank updated the commission's profiles on all the social media platforms about pride brunch and sent out a call for nominations for the individual and organization awards. The commission needs to provide nominations.

Recognition Awards: The Commission could not vote on an award recipient for the organization award this year because of COVID disrupting the award recognition process.

Logistics for Pride Bruch: Jennifer confirmed information about payments for the pride brunch vendors to move forward on purchases.

- Youth
 - Community Pride Celebration CRLS

8. Old Business

Cameron was not at the meeting to report on the Healthy Children Task Force (Cameron) Public Health & Safety WG.

9. New Business

Lauryn asked who is responsible for direct and private messages to the commission on social media. Lauryn can send questions about feedback to lgbtqpluscommission@cambridgema.gov. Lauryn can email the entire commission asking for support when responding to direct or private messages. The Communication Subcommittee will meet to discuss the commission's communication responsibilities for direct and private messages. Jennifer will talk to City's PIO Office about any applicable City rules for social media.

10. Report from Rainbows Across Communities

No new business.

11. Public Comments / Announcements

The **Transgender Emergency Fund of Massachusetts**, a non-profit organization that provides resources and support for low-income and homeless transgender individuals throughout Massachusetts is starting a new Transitional Housing Program which will provide 5-8 homeless transgender individuals with temporary, full-time housing for a year. In order to provide them with the greatest amount of support, care, and resources as possible, they are hiring new positions to work with the Executive Director and Case Manager to oversee the program:

- Part Time Housing Director
- Part Time Social Worker
- Part Time House Associate (Awake Overnight)

You can find more information about the positions at: transemergencyfund.org/jobs.

They “would ideally love to hire someone who has worked with the trans and nonbinary community in some capacity and has experience working with people experiencing homelessness or housing instability.”

CPL PRIDE Event: Wed. June 1st, 6-7pm: Malinda Lo: ***INSIDE THE TELEGRAPH CLUB*** – Cambridge Public Library (Main)

<https://www.cambridgema.gov/cpl/calendarofevents/view.aspx?guid=%7b1FE759C6-0CB6-445D-9514-72DAFA9ECD25%7d>

12. Next Commission Meeting: Thursday, June 23rd, 6-7:30pm, [Zoom?]

*To view the meeting or to participate in public comment, email
Amelia Joselow <AJoselow@CambridgeMA.gov>.*